

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (Currently amended): An accounting system including a plurality of host
2 computers, an accounting server connected to said plurality of host computers, a storage control
3 device connected to said plurality of host computers and said accounting server and having a
4 plurality of channel ports for performing data input/output operations, and storage devices
5 connected to said storage control device for storing data ~~inputted/outputted to/from~~ input to and
6 output from said plurality of host computers, comprising:

7 accounting data generating means for generating accounting data ~~containing at~~
8 ~~least one of~~ comprising a number of times of access and a data transfer quantity for ~~every each of~~
9 one or more accounting subject control units; and

10 transfer means for informing said accounting server of said accounting data
11 generated by said accounting data generating means.

1 2. (Original): An accounting system according to Claim 1, wherein each of
2 said accounting subject control units includes at least one of a host computer, a World Wide
3 Name, a channel port, a storage device and an in-storage-device area.

1 3. (Original): An accounting system according to Claim 1, wherein said
2 storage control device is associated with a service processor and includes transfer means for
3 informing said service processor of said accounting data.

1 4. (Currently amended): An accounting system according to Claim 3, further
2 comprising:
3 means for setting an upper limit value of said accounting data in said accounting
4 subject control units ~~for each said accounting subjects~~, said means being made to operate from at
5 least one of said accounting server and said service processor.

1 5. (Original): An accounting system according to Claim 4, wherein said
2 upper limit value is determined on the basis of a predetermined period which includes, as a unit,
3 at least one of a day, a week, a month, and a year.

1 6. (Original): An accounting system according to Claim 4, wherein said
2 storage control device includes means which operates so that when a data input/output request
3 issued from one of said host computers is larger than said upper limit value, said means does not
4 accept said data input/output request larger than said upper limit value.

1 7. (Currently amended): An accounting system according to Claim 4,
2 wherein, ~~to said~~ in an accounting subject control unit in which said upper limit value has not been
3 set yet, meter accounting is made based on at least one of said number of times of access and
4 said data transfer quantity.

1 8. (Original): An accounting system according to Claim 4, wherein
2 accounting for said accounting subject control unit in which said upper limit value has been set is
3 made based on fixed accounting.

1 9. (Original): An accounting system according to Claim 7, wherein at least
2 one of said accounting server and said service processor has means for fetching said accounting
3 data of said storage control device every predetermined period, and means for calculating rates
4 on the basis of said accounting data fetched by said fetching means and for performing rate
5 management.

1 10. (Original): An accounting system according to Claim 1, wherein
2 connection between said storage control device and said host computers is made through serial
3 channels of optical fibers so as to constitute a LAN.

1 11. (Currently amended): An accounting system according to Claim ~~[[1]]~~4,
2 wherein said storage control device has I/O control portions for setting at least said upper limit
3 values and generating accounting data in accordance with said upper limit values, and a shared
4 memory for storing said accounting data.

1 12. (Currently amended): An accounting method for making accounting for
2 operation of a plurality of host computers in a storage-related accounting system which is
3 ~~constituted by~~comprises said plurality of host computers, an accounting server, a storage control
4 device connected at least to said plurality of host computers and to said accounting server for
5 performing data input/output operation through channel ports, and a storage device for storing
6 data processed by said storage control device, said accounting method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

7 (a) designating accounting subject control units;

8 (b) for at least some of said accounting subject control units, determining an upper
9 limit value for a number of times of access and for an upper limit value for a data transfer
10 quantity, ~~said wherein~~ access and data transfer ~~being made by~~occur for each of said accounting
11 subject control units;

12 (c) generating accounting data of said accounting subject control units in
13 accordance with said upper limit values; and

14 (d) recording said accounting data.

1 13. (Original): An accounting method according to Claim 12, wherein said
2 accounting subject control units include host computers, World Wide Names, channel ports, and
3 storage areas in storage devices.

1 14. (Original): An accounting method according to Claim 12, wherein said
2 accounting server is associated with a service processor for controlling and supervising said
3 storage control device.

1 15. (Original): An accounting method according to Claim 12, wherein, in said
2 step (b), said accounting server makes an upper limit values setting request to said storage
3 control device, and in response to said request, said storage control device determines said upper
4 limit values for said number of times of access and said data transfer quantities.

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1 16. (Original): An accounting method according to Claim 12, wherein said
2 generation of said accounting data stated in said step (c) is made by said storage control device in
3 accordance with said upper limit values.

1 17. (Original): An accounting method according to Claim 12, wherein, in said
2 step (d), said accounting server makes an accounting data sending request to said storage control
3 device in every predetermined period, and receives said accounting data in said every
4 predetermined period to record said accounting data in a database of said accounting server.
